

Armenia, Sept. 24, 1890
Macedonia, July 5, 1841
A.S.

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Mrs. Torrey & Gray

Mrs. Dorr & Gray. I take the liberty of
 addressing you by letter since I have taken upon
 myself the privilege of forwarding to you a Copy of
 our Manual of Botany, which you ^{will} no doubt receive
 before you receive this. I have sent it directly to
 Wiley & Putnam, by the hand of a merchant of
 our city, who left last week.

I feel it a privilege to state to you, who are labouring so devotedly and successfully in the field of Botany, the objects aimed at in my work.

I have endeavoured to place in the hands of our Southern students, a book which shall contain a brief description of ^{all} our common plants, and arranged entirely by Natural Orders. I do not offer it as a complete work on Southern Botany, as I have in my possession many plants which are not described in this Manual. Being uncertain with regard to some of them and they not being common I have omitted them till more certainty can be attained. I have introduced none ^{but} of which I felt myself certain of being correct. I have followed the arrangement which I thought best at the time of writing, but some parts of which I

Given by A. M. VAIL.
from the J. D. Brooke collection

I would now alter. I do not know what you will think of my Analysis. Perhaps you would prefer the Linnaean System for determining the Genera. I have used this Analysis in Classes for several years and I succeed with it much better than with the Linnaean System. It may be much improved however, I could alter it now for the better. You will notice the misplacing of Apilata. It was done in moving from this city and the copy became damaged and this part was not observed till the first proof of the Endogrus was printed. The leaving out of these genera forming the Appendix was the carelessness of the Compositors. Not expecting such a thing and not correcting by the copy ~~they~~ I did not notice these ^{omissions} till the work was nearly completed.

You may recollect that I called on you a year ago last December. You might have thought it singular, if you thought of it at all, that I should leave New York without calling on you again according to appointment.

I was taken sick that night and was not able to be out till it was absolutely necessary for me to leave for home; leaving nearly all my business in New York under the exposure to the tremendous storm on my way to N.Y. gave me such a cold that I was feebly all winter.

The preparation of my Book and the management of a large Female Boarding School has compelled me to abstain from all use of my time for other purposes. I calculate on

deriving great aid from you which in N.Y. from your
counsel, ^{the} herbarium & Library, but failed in even saying a word
on subjects ~~for~~ on which I would have given much for your
opinion. In fact, I did nothing, that I intended in reference
to Botany. I have done the best I could without counsel or
aid. ^{our Book} It has the effect of exciting interest on the
subject it will accomplish much in the region for
which it is intended. It has been better received from
our old Botanists than I had reason to expect. I believe
I sent you a Notice of Dr. Greene's ^{which you will perceive is not a very discriminating one.} Editor of the Telegraph;
he ~~was~~ assisted Elliott in the preparation of his work
twenty years ago, and is a very good Botanist. I expect
a very different ~~notion~~ notion from him as then old men are
very much ~~prejudiced~~ prejudiced against the ^{new} Natural System,
and the Dr. is very caustic, as they say here.

I am about to start ~~for~~ on a tour through the lower
part of this State; and the Islands of the coast, and the
northern part of Florida. I hope to find something new.
Could I be of any service to you now, at this late hour,
by sending you any plants that I have or may collect, I
shall do it with much pleasure. Complete confinement
the impatience duties has prevented my doing it heretofore
but now my Book is out, and my situation not requiring
more than half the labour that the one I have occupied formerly
did. I ~~am~~ intend devoting myself to the investigations of
the Science of Botany in all its departments.

I need not tell you that any suggestion from you in refer-
ence to my work would be most gratefully ^{received} in reference to
matter or arrangement. I should be glad, by my own labours,
and the aid of others, to make it worthy to be one of the stip-
ing stones to the temple you are building. I have no other
object than the advancement of the science of Botany in our

Dr. Wm. D. Torrey & Gray
New York City

Trans-charge Box No. 28

Institutions of learning where it is now in a disgracefully
low state. I know ^a Professor who has never studied or taught
any other book than Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, and that too in
Georgia, and not one tenth of the plants growing in his neighborhood
of course can be known to him.
Yrs. Most Respectfully, J. D. V. by